

## **Introductory Comments**

By Session Moderator Thomas Wakeman III, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

You probably have the agenda, and like everything else, it has changed. What's going to happen is that Doug Clarke is going to set the background for you with the context of the issues. And the windows issue really is driven by certain environmental acts: the Endangered Species Act of 1972; and more recently the Essential Fish Habitat Act of 1997. Those acts are Congress' mandates to resource agencies to protect the resources of the nation, the fishery resources principally. At the same time, Congress has asked the Corps of Engineers and other construction agencies to build infrastructure for the nation under the Water Resources Development Acts.

These two mandates from Congress sometimes collide. And our ability to find rational, workable, economic, effective, optimal solutions is hindered by an inability of knowing what the road map is, the process so to speak.

This workshop is about defining that process. Because Jerry Schubel, who will be your second speaker will talk about what happened in the National Academy Workshop last year. And during that workshop, we defined the environmental windows issue as being both scientific and engineering in nature.

The scientific context will be set by Charles Simenstad, and the engineering context will be laid out by Donald Hayes. At that point, we're going to change from this venue, from the United States venue, to a more global context, and Neville Burt will speak on the UK's perspective on this issue at this point in time. I'm sure it's changing there, too. From that point, we're going to go to case studies. Ellen Johnck is going to speak about one port on the west coast, and how they're currently dealing with it. And I'll speak about one port on the east coast, and how they're dealing with this issue.

Because it's actually tied into many other issues. But that doesn't mean we can't use those inputs, those other models as decision making tools. At that point we would like to open this up. And depending on how the panel is feeling, we will either sit up here, or we'll be out encouraging you to comment.

But by the end of the meeting, Jerry asked me what I'd like to see. And what I'd really like to see is perfect knowledge and a deal. We'll see how close we get.

Doug, I'd like to turn it over to you to start us off.

